

Appl. No.: 10/814,820
Amendment dated April 18, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2007
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Amendments to the Drawings:

As shown in the attached appendix, **Figure 5 has been cancelled** and withdrawn from the present application. The pending figures are Figures 1 through 4.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following remarks, reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as presented are earnestly solicited. Claims 1, 4 and 6-10 are pending. In response to the Office Action, independent Claim 1 has been amended and Claims 4 and 8-10 have been cancelled. Furthermore, new Claims 11 and 12 have been added. The newly added recitations and claims find support throughout the Specification and the Drawings, and no new matter has been added. It is believed that the pending claims define patentable subject matter over the references cited by the Examiner and notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

Drawing Objections

The Office Action indicates that new Figure 5 is not acceptable. Although applicants maintain that new Figure 5 is fully supported by the specification as originally filed, Figure 5 has been withdrawn in order to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action also indicates that Claims 5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description and enablement requirements. While Applicants maintain that Claims 5 and 8-10 find adequate support throughout the specification and figures as originally filed, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claims 5 and 8-10 have been cancelled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over by U.S. Patent No. 2,236,366 to Chapman *et al.* ("Chapman") in view of the admitted prior art. In response, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the collar comprises a radially-outward threaded surface. Furthermore Claim 1 has been amended to recite a first sleeve having the collar extending axially therethrough, wherein the first sleeve is disposed axially adjacent to a first side of the second cutting blade, the first sleeve comprising a first radially-inward threaded surface configured for operably engaging the

radially outward threaded surface of the collar such that the first sleeve is axially adjustable relative to the collar. Amended Claim 1 now also recites a second sleeve having the collar extending axially therethrough, wherein the second sleeve is disposed axially adjacent to an opposing second side of the second cutting blade such that the first sleeve and the second sleeve cooperate to secure the second cutting blade therebetween, the second sleeve comprising a second radially-inward threaded surface configured for operably engaging the radially outward threaded surface of the collar such that the first sleeve is axially adjustable relative to the collar and such that the second cutting blade can be adjusted to maintain a cutting position adjacent to the first cutting blade and in a fixed spaced relation from the first cutting blade so as to compensate for blade wear. The new recitations find support throughout the as-filed specification such as, for example, at page 8, line through page 9, line 21, and in the as-filed Figure 4. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In addition, new Claims 11 and 12 have been added to recite that the second cutting blade is rotationally secured to at least one of the first sleeve and the second sleeve. More particularly, new Claim 12 recites at least one pin extending axially from at least one of the first sleeve and the second sleeve to engage a corresponding axially-extending aperture defined by the second cutting blade so as to rotationally secure the second cutting blade at least one of the first sleeve and the second sleeve. The recitations of new Claims 11 and 12 find support throughout the as-filed specification such as, for example, at page 9, lines 1-21, and in the as-filed Figure 4. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The arrangement recited in amended Claim 1 is clearly not taught or suggested by Chapman, which describes the use of a sliding collar (37) that is “adjustable on the shaft, but normally held in fixed position by a set screw (38). *See* Chapman, and column 3, lines 19-20. Chapman does not teach or suggest a collar having a radially-outward threaded surface nor a pair of sleeves, each having a radially-inward threaded surface configured for operably engaging the radially outward threaded surface of the collar so as to adjustably secure a second cutting blade therebetween, as is now expressly recited in independent Claim 1.

Applicant thus submits, for at least the reasons stated above, that Claim 1 is not obvious over Chapman, and therefore Claim 1, as well as Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 which depend therefrom, are patentable over Chapman.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Chapman does not teach, suggest, or provide motivation for the embodiments of the present invention as now claimed in Claims 1, 6, 7, 11 and 12. Accordingly, in view of the above differences between the Applicants' invention and the cited references, the Applicants submit that the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, is patentable over the references cited in the Office Action. As such, for the reasons set forth above, Claims 1, 6, 7, 11 and 12 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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